



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

Edited by Erica Allcorn
Published by Cheyenne Freeman

FROM THE DESK OF TRAVIS DEMOSS

Your Community at Work

The Pettis County Board has the opportunity to work with some wonderful organizations in and around our community. It's a pleasure working with and sharing a vision of making life a little better for individuals with developmental disabilities. I would like to share with you three places that we partner with who's services not only support the individuals and their families, but are also fun. They are Camp Encourage, Camp Barnabas and Wonderland Camp.

Each year these camps support thousands of individuals engage in the classic American tradition of summer camp. There they will engage in a host of activities including swimming, horseback riding and of course the week ending finally, the talent show. Staff and volunteers are on site to facilitate all of their needs as well. I've even heard staff state that they are not sure who has more fun, the campers or the staff. Camps are not just for the campers. It also provides a healthy respite for moms, dads and caregivers. If you want

to know more about any one of the camping opportunities, I have included the link to their websites at the bottom of this article. I'm sure they would love to hear from you and will be able to provide you with the information necessary to make application.

<https://wonderlandcamp.org>

<https://campbarnabas.org>

<https://campencourage.org>

MPOWERS VISION STATEMENT:

We are committed to the belief that promoting an individual's hopes, wants and dreams is the first step to achieving self-determination.

MEET THE TEAM

Erica Allcorn	Shayla Mitchell
Kellie Berry	Erica Rennison
Dakota Cantwell	Alex Rutledge
Christy Coslet	Sonia Setzer
Erica Cox	Kristyn Siegel
Diana Crouch	Tanya Steele
Travis DeMoss	Jessica Stratton
Jessica Elgin	Jennifer Trent
Tyler Emerson	Tim VanBebber
Dana Evans	Tammy Waggoner
Cheyenne Freeman	Elizabeth Washington
Nik Langston	Ashlea Withers
Angela May	Ashley Weir

MESSAGE FROM HR



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FROM THE DESK OF ELIZABETH WASHINGTON

March is National Developmental Disability Month. The CDC defines developmental disabilities as “a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. These conditions begin during the developmental period and can impact day-to-day functioning, this usually lasts throughout a person’s lifetime.”

Developmental Disabilities, like many disabilities, do not stop an individual from being able to live a fulfilling and joyful life. What can stop these individuals are the barriers that people create. It is important for us as a community to work

together to break down barriers that people with disabilities face on a daily basis.

The first step to breaking down these barriers is simply being aware that they exist. Be a part of community awareness in your community by:

1. **Educating Yourself:** Learn about disabilities, and their challenges. Understanding breaks down misconceptions and stereotypes.
2. **Promoting Accessibility:** Advocate to your local business and government for accessible buildings and transportation for all.

3. **Encouraging Inclusion:** Support activities in your community that are inclusive. This can include sports teams, art programs and social events.
4. **Be an Ally:** Stand up, Speak up against discrimination when you see it.
5. **Volunteer:** Be that person. Get Involved.
6. **Be Mindful of Language:** Remember ears are always listening and learning. Use respectful and inclusive language.

<https://www.5pointsmusic.com/march-is-developmental-disability-awareness-month/#>



Kenny and Robin Krause

FROM THE DESK OF A SERVICE COORDINATOR

Two Brothers

Kenny and Robin Krause live together in their own apartment supported by Twin Oaks ISL services. They have lived in Sweet Springs all their lives. They lived with their mother in their apartment until her health failed and she had to live elsewhere. Their two other brothers who are their guardians, Steve and Dennis, reached out to Twin Oaks to see if they could keep their brothers in the place that they felt most comfortable, their hometown and their home. Twin Oaks worked with the Krause brothers to make their dreams come true.

Kenny and Robin both go to The Oaks Activity Center in Sweet Springs where they are involved in the whole gamut of activities there. Robin is the president of the Consumer Council for Twin Oaks. Robin and Kenny are living in a way that is comfortable for them. Twin Oaks supports them as they go shopping and out to eat once a week, to go to church on Sundays, to go and see their mom and their brothers when they desire to do so.

At home Kenny and Robin keep up their own home. Robin often cooks and they both do things such as wash dishes, do laundry, and clean the house. Robin mows and

trims his own yard throughout the grass growing season. They also like to watch Royals and Chiefs games religiously. They know the latest about each team and the players on those teams. Their rooms are decorated with things that they’ve made and items from places that they’ve visited. Kenny and Robin Krause are happy and fulfilled because they live life the way that they’ve chosen to live it and Twin Oaks supports them in doing so.

By Tim VanBebber

FROM THE DESK OF ASHLEA WITHERS

Employee Appreciation Day

March 1st is Employee Appreciation Day. Really, this day should be celebrated every day of the year! The work we do at MPower is seen and felt each day of the year by the amazing staff we have. These are some of the hardest working, most dedicated individuals I have ever had the chance of knowing.

Being a Service Coordinator is not “just a job”. This is a role that challenges people, intrigues people, and motivates people. Being able to be part of a team that advocates and supports individuals to

live the best darn lives they can, is just something that cannot be put into words. Like, literally. What amount of words could encompass what it means to see someone thrive, smile, laugh, embrace life, and succeed constantly?!

I have the privilege of seeing veteran Service Coordinators continue to grow and take on new challenges daily. I have brand new Service Coordinators who are learning the ropes and get giddy when they achieve a new “something” they’ve never done before. And I watch as all of these people meld together and have each

others’ backs through it all. Veteran teaching new; new teaching veteran. And all of it is awe inspiring.

Our agency would not be what it is without their dedication and hard work. So on this Employee Appreciation Day, I give thanks to each and every person we employ. I give heartfelt gratitude to everyone who shows up and works their hardest, even during a difficult season. Thank you for being the example of what it is to be a good human being.

FROM THE DESK OF A SERVICE COORDINATOR

Jeremiah “Cole” Davidson is an energetic 11-year-old boy who lives with his parents and sister in Sedalia, Missouri. Cole has a diagnosis of autistic disorder but has never let this hold him back from an enjoyable life filled with family and friends. Recently, his need for a Cubby Bed became crucial for the safety of both him and his family during the night. Faced with the exorbitant cost of these Cubby Beds and insurance denials despite medical recommendations, Cole’s family reached out to MPower for help. After

exploring funding options for Cole’s Cubby Bed, I was able to secure the full \$14,000 to cover the cost of the bed and installation. Witnessing the palpable relief and happiness within Cole’s family stands out as a remarkable success to me in my journey as a Service Coordinator. This experience has also reinforced the importance of advocacy and compassionate assistance, motivating me to continue navigating the complexities of service coordination with dedication and empathy, driven by the profound impact such support from

MPower can have on our consumer’s and their family’s lives.

By Shayla Mitchell

MARCH DAYS OF AWARENESS



CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS MONTH

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY — MARCH 21ST



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH



MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH



NATIONAL TRISOMY AWARENESS MONTH

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR DAY—MARCH 1ST



COME CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!!!

WWW.MPOWERTCM.ORG

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Sedalia, MO 65301

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Marshall, MO 65340

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MPOWER'S MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering people to manage the direction of their life.



MPOWER

Derived from the word “Empower” and meaning “to promote the self-actualization or influence of one’s self”.

Welcome to MPower, an agency developed to meet the Targeted Case Management needs of adults with disabilities in Pettis and Saline Counties. At MPower, we have dedicated ourselves to providing the highest quality case management services available in Central Missouri. We believe that the individuals we serve deserve an advocate that is highly trained, well-educated on the latest trends and highly motivated to assist people in navigating the intricate systems of State and Federal funding sources and the growing list of qualified providers.

We believe in you, we believe in your hopes, wants, and dreams. We believe that when you are “MPowered” to make your own choices and have the proper supports, then you have the greatest potential for success.

It is our pleasure to walk beside you.